

A Free, Responsible and Aggressive Press is Democracy's First Line of Defense

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich. in the Eclectic Building, 220-224 Woodward Avenue. Telephone 11, 13, 15 and 14

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NOTE: The Eclectic will publish contributed material providing it has news value; and suggestions are welcomed. Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation, which may appear in the columns of The Eclectic will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

Oh, for Return of Faith!

If you were a candidate for some high office, just what would you declare as your platform so that you could win enough votes to be elected?

Would you talk in abstract terms of balanced budgets, corruption in high places that must be stopped, elimination or cutting down of farm subsidies, firmer controls upon labor, more encouragement to business, severe treatment of Russia?

Do you think you could win against a candidate who looked more like Santa Claus than yourself?

If you do, you are a courageous person. If you were possessed of sufficient financial resources to go along with your abstract arguments, you might win sectional victories. It is unlikely, though, that you could win national victories, as Truman proved in 1918.

Today, you live in an era when the "gimmies" have overtaken more voters than at any time in the history of the United States.

You live in a day when the masses of people, weakened by two wars, by depressions, by the examples of looseness and corruption in high places, have lost much of their own independent self-reliance. They have been "let down" so many times that they have lost basic faith in the promises of public officials to allow traditionally safe customs to make them secure.

So they live for today only... and feel that, after all, Santa Claus, make-believe as he may be, places more gifts in their hands than they can acquire by their own means. They have been given away to confusion. Oh, for the return of faith—faith in honesty, truth, righteousness!

Church and State Apart

Separation of church and state is fundamental American doctrine and should be preserved by the American people, even to the extent of eliminating controversial religious education from the public schools.

Proponents of religious instruction in the public schools intimate that, without it, the schools are attacking religion. This contention seems to be a bit far-fetched to us.

There are many organized activities of society, but it would be foolish to intimate that they are engaged in attacking religion.

In view of the fact that public schools utilize only a small fraction of a pupil's time, it would seem possible for churches and other organizations to carry on their religious activities without usurping school time.

For five days a week, a child goes to school approximately thirty hours. This leaves more than 100 hours for other activities. After deducting a reasonable time for sleeping, there seems to be ample opportunity for religious instruction in Sunday schools and in churches. That is it should be.

Warm G.O.P. Campaign

From several reliable sources, we are informed that the forthcoming State primary campaign among the Republican candidates for Governor will become somewhat soiled, as verbal brickbats are tossed about.

It is rumored that former Attorney-General Eugene F. Black, of Port Huron, is going to say some unkind things about Harry F. Kelly, and his brother, Emmett. Probably candidate Albert J. Engel will bristle with indignation against a "do-nothing" Michigan Republicanism of recent years.

Dr. Eugene C. Keyes will not throw any kisses Kelly's way; while Fred M. Alger, Jr., destined to carry on a dignified and calm campaign, won't bedevil anybody but the Democrats.

All in all, it looks as though the campaign will be warm.

From Our Point of View

Michigan's Legislature meets this week in special session, to attempt the solution to numerous of its internal problems. Having been in the midst of a variety of these political gatherings, during 1917-18, the editor of this newspaper smiles to himself, as he imagines what will go on in Lansing. The Republicans and the Democrats will quarrel and quibble, each side playing for political advantage... the Cause of Truth and Right will find few defenders... it will, as usual, be "America on the predatory rampage."

Gay France... gay for centuries... continues to be torn politically, with no stability, nothing substantial to keep French citizens together. What a tragedy that a land that has given the world so much in art, music and literature should disintegrate at the shrine of the flesh!

HEADLINE: "U. S. Could Write Its Own H-Bomb Ticket, Scientist Theorizes." Ticket to where?

Money can't buy true happiness, a modern philosopher says. No, but it can make shopping around for it so much more enjoyable.

A Los Angeles manufacturer has come up with a gas range with a built-in television set. Now a housewife can have her ham and cook it at the same time.

Four Ute Indians in Utah recently protested to the Governor that State that they are being "compelled to live under a system of 'complete socialization.'" They demand to retain what few freedoms the white man left them—even though the Indians' conquerors themselves are going in the direction of Socialism.

There are more than 400 rubber parts in the average automobile. And still it's the pedestrians that bounce the most.

Well, it won't be long now until most of the strikes people are howling about will be called by the umpires.

The director of the United States Mint doesn't look with favor on the proposed 2 1/2- or 7 1/4-cent pieces. In other words, the mint wants no change in its change.

So They Say...

William Sheldon, psychologist: "The human mind at forty is commonly vulgar, smug, deadened and wastes its power."

J. Howard McGrath, U. S. Attorney-General: "Medical and psychiatric experts have concluded that the sex offender is either curable or incurable."

Theodore C. Blegen, dean, Graduate School, University of Minnesota: "Let us not delude ourselves into supposing that by training technical gadget-makers, we are educating leaders for tomorrow."

Harry S. Truman: "A sharp increase in taxes under present economic conditions would be unwise."

John J. McCloy, U. S. Commissioner for Germany: "I don't know what's in the Russian mind. It's an enigma."

Shiguro Yoshida, Japanese Premier: "Renunciation of war does not mean abandonment of the right of self-defense."

Norman Thomas, Socialist party leader: "We must recapture for America a leadership for peace. We have lost it."



Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files of The Eclectic—The Items of Most of The Background Of The Birmingham Times

50 years ago MARCH 10, 1880

Masson M. Leonard became president of the Village of Birmingham by a margin of six votes at Monday's election. Thomas H. Cobb was named clerk; Daniel Johnson, treasurer and Volney Nixon, assessor. Trustees were named for one, two, three and four year terms, also.

Mrs. Horace Hall and Mrs. Martha Quick sustained painful injuries when they fell on the icy streets Sunday. Pedestrians slipped through the entire village throughout and slid as a sleety rain continued to add to an already thick layer of ice.

Charlie, Will and John Campbell narrowly escaped death Sunday evening when an electric train struck their rig as they were driving home from services in the Royal Oak M. E. Church. They were covered, carriage was utterly demolished.

On account of a rush of work and scarcity of help in our composing room we were obliged to omit our county column last week. With conditions reversed, you will find this issue containing the news of two weeks.

A company of about 25 school children from the George Meigs school were entertained at a pleasant surprise Friday evening. After getting her sufficient notice, the school children joined in helping her pass the evening. She is still wondering how they fooled her so successfully.

20 years ago MARCH 20, 1910

After an election that a re-count of Birmingham was necessary, Harry Allen was declared the new incumbent of Birmingham Saturday. When the final count was made Allen had 688 votes against 687 for E. T. Killeby. In 1928, when Allen opposed Ellerbe for the same office the latter won by a margin of 28 votes.

The formal opening of the new Community House Monday drew more than half of the population of Birmingham to the spot. The many visitors were deeply impressed with the accommodations which their new community center will offer, and already many plans are being made for social activities.

The first grass fire of 1930 was reported at about 11:30 a. m. on early Friday afternoon. A pile of grass at the corner of Maple and Birmingham streets was burning when a sudden storm breeze fanned it out of control. The blaze was extinguished before any damage was done.

The Sternal tire shop, Woodward and Daines, was badly damaged by fire Friday. A passerby noticed flames and called the department, which found the fire confined mostly to the vulcanizing department. The entire damage was estimated at about \$500, including stock and equipment.

A pleasant trip from Detroit to Bloomfield Hills was had by Detroit women the other day. However, on her arrival she refused to pay the baggage fee and was taken to the cab driver. Being a resentful soul, he had the lady arrested. Justice Floyd Buck later sentenced her to spend 60 days in the county jail.

The newcomers from Auburn Township and Mrs. Henry Townsend and daughter, Betty Lee now living at 1768 Grassfield. Mr. Townsend is a maintenance man with Grassfield Terrace.

Glass Trees

By BEATRICE McDONALD The elms and maple trees in our back yard. And all the shrubs and all the blades of grass. And clumps of dead brown weeds are made of glass. The fence is flecked with broken bits of snow. Cobble and Russian blue, with rose on show. Of rainbow prisms strung along each strand. Of wire. Far out across the frozen snow. Garnets and opals glint in the snow. Your yard is like a fairy book come true. With flosses like magic everywhere. I wonder if a princess or a few. Small pixies might be hiding here and there.

Will It Hold Up?

What every large U. S. city needs is one radio station that sends out over the air waves nothing but good music.

We come to this conclusion after years of continually dialing between the regular radio stations, which by their broadcast programs, are pouring forth all sorts of drivel programs.

Let me admit that the regular radio stations put out some excellent programs.

THE FIRESTONE and Telephone Hours with their wonderful music and outstanding good stars; these comedians, such as George Marx, Bob Hope, Jack Benny, Phil Harris, Dennis Day, Eve Arden, and many others.

But in between programs of this type... what a lot of wasted time! The Doctor's Brother's Wife's Cousin-in-Law, Millie Mesta Fiat at Every Corner, Ladies Sit Down.

LOOKING AHEAD

This period in world history may well be recorded as the era of the Great Hulla-bullas for economy security. Future historians will never be able to relate, however, the details of this era.

Economic security simply can't be strung along by some patent medicine. And it isn't a gift to be bestowed without strings attached.

There are two notable nations today in which the government is providing for the economic security of its citizens.

OUR BIGGEST PROBLEM

Who Pays is Important In the area of big industry, where the present headlong drive for pensions and other security benefits is concentrated, there is a danger that the government will be unable to meet its obligations.

MICHIGAN MIRROR

THE GOVERNOR'S LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Michigan state legislature met at Lansing this Wednesday (March 13) for a special session called by Governor G. Mennen Williams.

The Governor has included in his message a proposal to call a referendum on the law whereby the Michigan State Liquor Commission is authorized to purchase and sell liquor.

Indications at Lansing were that the Governor would also recommend a reduction of the Michigan Unemployment Compensation Act along lines of his message in 1929.

By George Wm. Averill

Superduper Man, the All-American, they mean Wins, Out, Out, Crime... these are typical examples of the programs I avoid as if they were the plague.

But FOR LONG PERIODS I have been listening to a good type of program. I can recognize these twaddlers with me.

Maybe that's what I should do with the rest of the program. I mean a good program is ready to be listened to.

But in between programs of this type... what a lot of wasted time! The Doctor's Brother's Wife's Cousin-in-Law, Millie Mesta Fiat at Every Corner, Ladies Sit Down.

By George S. Benson

steel price hike, brought on by the pensions granted last December, is extended to the retail price, the same axe will sell for at least \$32.25. The store owner told him.

So those who buy axes will be contributing about \$20 each (about \$100 for the family) to the steel workers' pension fund. When we consider the price boosts on other commodities, it is not surprising that the coal miners' pensions and others which are also directly reflected in higher prices will add to the accumulating problem.

There are also the problems in the area of small business where the employer is unable to pay the full cost of the pension plan.

Revision of the State Sales Tax, currently a subject of much controversy, is not likely to come before the legislature as the Governor has indicated in his message.

The State Sales Tax is likely to be held over until 1931. This 1930 is a Michigan campaign year, the proceedings at Lansing will bear close watching.

Youth Hostels Group Plan Open House for N. Woodward Area

Persons interested in canoeing, hiking, stargazing, bicycling, and back riding are invited to attend the American Youth Hostels' open house at the North Woodward area club next Monday. This group, from the North Woodward area, will meet at 7:30 p. m. to establish a district organization to promote "travel sports" in this area.

The event will acquaint non-members with AYH activities. A game of bridge will be played with square dancing to be held at the close of the meeting.

The AYH groups all over the country and is affiliated with similar groups in 26 foreign countries. The North Woodward club will have about 200 people of the vicinity who are interested in this type of travel to visit vacation spots and enjoy a good time.

Anyone planning to attend Monday's meeting should contact the AYH at 3907 Phillips, Berkeley.

People's Column

The Eclectic welcomes letters for this column. All letters must be signed, but need not be accompanied by return address. Letters must be limited to 200 words.

To the Editor: I wonder if other voters find themselves in a quandary as they attempt to give their choice for new members of the city commission. For me it poses a real problem.

Three of the candidates, Dean B. C. Jones, William J. Neale, and former students of mine—fine, capable boys, any one of whom would be an asset to this important post.

Chad Ritchie has likewise been a good friend through the years, loyal to the interests of his city, and with a keen insight into its problems.

It is a tribute to Birmingham that four young men of the caliber of this group have volunteered to serve their city in an assignment that is so demanding and too often forgotten.

We should all join in giving a vote of thanks to the two retiring commissioners for their untiring efforts in behalf and extended welcoming handclasp of pride and honor to their successors whom the electors will choose on April 3.

Have You Met?

The newcomers from Auburn Township and Mrs. Henry Townsend and daughter, Betty Lee now living at 1768 Grassfield. Mr. Townsend is a maintenance man with Grassfield Terrace.

Internationally Speaking

We have definite proof that Tito in some respects playing a double-edged game. His recent recognition of the Chinese government within the borders of Yugoslavia, China demonstrates the windward side of his thinking and acting.

By Gene Allman

num of \$42 a week, the latter depending upon dependents left unemployed workers covered by the Unemployment Compensation Act. The legislature agreed upon a minimum of \$24 and maximum of \$32.

Another subject matter before the legislature is a proposal by the Governor to enable counties and townships to utilize Federal funds for the reduction of unemployment.

Indications at Lansing were that the Governor would also recommend a reduction of the Michigan Unemployment Compensation Act along lines of his message in 1929.

The time fuse of this powder keg is Macedonia, Macedonia is a party in Bulgaria, and party in Yugoslavia.

It is the most backward area of the Balkans, but has rich timber, water power, and an abundance of iron and manganese.

This Tito is in a way holding the key to peace in the Balkans. He is a man who believes that Russia is watching his actions in Macedonia with very great interest.

It is the working out of a plan to use the general fund in that region to finance needed construction in that region.